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Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 15 September 2004, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ping (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Gabon)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (A/BUR/59/1 and A/59/355)

1. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to the memorandum by the Secretary-General regarding the organization of the fifty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (A/BUR/59/1) and to a letter from the President of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly addressed to the President of the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly (A/59/355), in which the President of the fifty-eighth session drew attention to section II of and annex I to the report of the Secretary-General on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/58/864), which the Assembly had decided to submit for consideration at the fifty-ninth session.

Memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/59/1)

Section II: Organization of the session

2. *The Committee took note of all the relevant information contained in section II of the memorandum. It decided to draw to the attention of the General Assembly all the necessary information and to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take action on all the proposals contained in that section.*

3. *The Committee also decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the information contained in paragraph 17 of the memorandum.*

Section III: Observations on the organization of the work of the General Assembly

4. *The Committee decided to bring to the attention of the General Assembly all the information contained in section III of the memorandum.*

Section IV: Adoption of the agenda

5. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that, in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the draft agenda was now organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, as contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. The draft agenda contained in paragraph 54 of the memorandum was composed of all the items on the provisional agenda as contained in section II of the report of the Secretary-General on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/58/864) and as submitted by the President of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly in document A/59/355, as well as items 17 (j), 159, 160 and 161. It also contained five new items, namely, items 153, 154, 159, 160 and 161.

6. *The Committee decided to take note of the information contained in paragraphs 48 to 53 of the memorandum.*

7. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Egypt had asked to participate in the discussion. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Elnaggar (Egypt) took a place at the Committee table.*

10. **Mr. Elnaggar** (Egypt) asked whether the Committee intended to discuss the new format of the draft agenda at the current meeting or at a later date in the context of the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. In accordance with section B, paragraph 2 (c) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the Committee should consult with Member States before making recommendations to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly concerning the placement of agenda items under the new headings but, to his knowledge, no such consultations had taken place.

11. **Ms. Anguiano Rodríguez** (Mexico) endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Egypt.

12. **Mr. Bouheddou** (Algeria) endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Egypt. He had been under the impression that the restructuring of the agenda was still under discussion and took the view that the Committee should further consider the issue in the context of its forthcoming examination of the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

13. **Mr. Bennouna** (Morocco), supported by **Mr. Balarezo** (Peru), said that the draft agenda contained in the Secretary-General's memorandum was merely a proposal and should be the subject of further discussions. Nevertheless, he suggested that any specific proposals pertaining to the inclusion of items

should be made immediately, since that particular issue could not be deferred.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **Mr. Elnaggar** (Egypt) said that he was more than willing to take part in discussions on the inclusion of agenda items. However, in the absence of instructions from Cairo, he would be unable to support any proposals made until constructive consultations open to all Member States had taken place.

16. **Mr. Elnaggar** (Egypt) withdrew.

Inclusion of items

Heading A (Maintenance of international peace and security)

Item 28 (Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte)

17. *The Committee decided to postpone its consideration of the inclusion of item 28 to a later date.*

Item 84 (Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas de India)

18. **Mr. Oubida** (Burkina Faso), supported by **Mr. Cools** (Belgium), said that, following consultations with the representatives of France and Madagascar and without prejudice to the positions of those two countries, his delegation wished to propose that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly, that consideration of item 84 should be deferred to the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

19. *It was so decided.*

20. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of the items listed under heading A, taking into account the decisions taken in respect of items 28 and 84.*

Heading B (Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences)

21. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of the items listed under heading B.*

Heading C (Development of Africa)

22. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of the items listed under heading C.*

Heading D (Promotion of human rights)

23. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of the items listed under heading D.

Heading E (Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts)

24. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of the items listed under heading E.*

Heading F (Promotion of justice and international law)

25. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Costa Rica had asked to participate in the discussion. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

26. *It was so decided.*

27. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Díaz Paniagua (Costa Rica) took a place at the Committee table.*

28. **Mr. Díaz Paniagua** (Costa Rica) proposed that item 152 (International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings) should be included under heading F rather than under heading I.

29. *It was so decided.*

30. *Mr. Díaz Paniagua (Costa Rica) withdrew.*

31. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of the items listed under heading F, taking into account the decision taken in respect of item 152.*

Heading G (Disarmament)

32. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of the items listed under heading G.*

Heading H (Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations)

33. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of the items listed under heading H*

Heading I (Organizational, aaministrative and other matters)

Item 153 (Observer status for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the General Assembly)

34. **Mr. Wang** Guangya (China), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), namely, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, said that SCO had been established in Shanghai on 15 June 2001. It was an intergovernmental body dedicated to regional development and the maintenance of peace and security and its activities fully accorded with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It stood ready to engage in constructive dialogue with the United Nations on issues of mutual interest and, in that connection, the granting of observer status would enable it to pursue closer cooperation with the Organization. He drew attention to document A/59/141, in which members of the Committee could find more detailed information about SCO and its work.

35. **Mr. Vohidov** (Uzbekistan) said that his delegation supported the inclusion in the agenda of item 153. Granting the SCO observer status would ensure its effective contribution to security and stability, not only in its territorial area, but throughout the world. Strengthening cooperation between the Organization and regional organizations would help counteract current threats and challenges in the area of security, as well as in the areas of stability and development. He recalled that in the declaration issued following their summit meeting in Tashkent, held in June 2004, the Heads of State of the members of SCO had stressed their readiness to participate in the construction of a new security architecture, as well as the importance of their interaction with the United Nations.

36. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that his delegation fully supported the statements made by the representatives of China and Uzbekistan. Kazakhstan attached great importance to the strengthening of ties between the United Nations and SCO, which was open to cooperation with other countries and international organizations in the political, commercial, economic, humanitarian and scientific spheres, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

37. **The Chairman** said that the representatives of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan had asked to participate in the discussion of item 153 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

38. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Moldogaziev (Kyrgyzstan) and Mr. Nazarov (Tajikistan) took places at the Committee table.*

39. **Mr. Nazarov** (Tajikistan) said that his delegation also supported the proposal to include item 153 in the agenda. Over the years, the United Nations had stepped up its efforts to forge partnerships with regional organizations in order to achieve the common objectives of peace, security and development. Granting observer status to SCO would not only expand the Organization's geographical area of cooperation but also enhance efforts for the maintenance of international peace and security.

40. **Mr. Moldogaziev** (Kyrgyzstan), expressing support for the proposal of the representative of China, noted that the main purposes of SCO were to strengthen mutual trust and friendship among member States and to develop their effective cooperation in the political, economic, commercial and other spheres. In the field of security, SCO focused on combating terrorism, separatism and extremism, and had recently established a permanent secretariat and a regional anti-terrorist structure.

41. *Mr. Moldogaziev (Kyrgyzstan) and Mr. Nazarov (Tajikistan) withdrew.*

42. **Mr. Konuzin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation supported China's proposal. The request for observer status for SCO was motivated by the desire to establish close and effective ties of cooperation with the United Nations. Granting the request would allow for a genuine strengthening of the interaction of the United Nations with regional organizations and enhance the opportunities for maintaining international peace and security.

43. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 153 under Heading I of the agenda of the fifty-ninth session.*

Item 154 (Observer status for the Southern African development community in the General Assembly)

44. **The Chairman** said that the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania had asked to participate in the discussion of item 154 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

45. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Mahiga (United Republic of Tanzania) took a place at the Committee table.*

46. **Mr. Mahiga** (United Republic of Tanzania), speaking on behalf of Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced their request for the inclusion of item 154 in the agenda of the General Assembly. The programme of action of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was compatible with that of the United Nations in the areas of peace and security, democracy, gender, science and technology and regional integration in general. If the SADC were to be granted observer status, the two institutions would be able to share information at the regional level on the implementation of various United Nations programmes. Moreover, the SADC subregional arrangements for cooperation constituted regional building blocks for international peace and security. Observer status in the General Assembly would enhance the partnership between the two organizations.

47. *Mr. Mahiga (United Republic of Tanzania) withdrew.*

48. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 154 under Heading I of the agenda of the fifty-ninth session.*

Item 159 (Question of the representation of the twenty-three million people of Taiwan in the United Nations)

49. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 159 had been requested in document A/59/194. The representative of the Gambia had asked to address the Committee on the matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

50. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Grey-Johnson (Gambia) took a place at the Committee table.*

51. **Mr. Grey-Johnson** (Gambia), speaking on behalf of Belize, Burkina Faso, Chad, Grenada, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Nicaragua, Palau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Swaziland and Tuvalu, said that the request for the inclusion of item 159 in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session had been submitted. Pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in a letter circulated in document A/59/194, along with an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II). The Committee faced yet another opportunity to revisit the burning question of the representation of the 23 million people of Taiwan, whose exclusion from the United Nations represented a moral and political indictment of all Member States. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) did not state that the People's Republic of China represented China at the United Nations, or that Taiwan could not be admitted into the United Nations, where the Taiwanese people currently had no representation.

52. In an era of threats and new challenges to the international system, to leave out any nation was foolhardy and counterproductive, especially at a time when States were eager to tighten cooperation in all areas and strengthen global governance. The fact that Taiwan was a sovereign nation could not be disputed. All nations of the world, including Taiwan's main detractor, conducted trade and other exchanges with Taiwan as a sovereign entity. Taiwan continued to make invaluable contributions to the global economy, and was emerging as a potentially strong power broker in East Asia, where its record as a functioning democracy and a champion of human rights stood out among those of its peers. Taiwan's ranking as the world's 17th-largest economy was a remarkable feat, in view of the political isolation it had been forced to endure, and showed that Taiwan was more than ready to play its full part in global affairs. Taiwan had also shown its readiness to assume humanitarian responsibilities.

53. It was particularly impressive that Taiwan continued to be committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, perceiving itself as a responsible and integral member of the international community. No unilateral policy on Taiwan's sovereignty could be implemented through the threat or use of force, which were illegal under the Charter. Events in the Taiwan Straits should elicit a response from the United Nations. Cross-strait talks

aimed at achieving lasting peace and stability remained the legitimate goal of the peace-loving people of Taiwan and should also be the goal of every peace-loving neighbour in that region and beyond. The United Nations could not ignore the legitimate aspirations of the people of Taiwan and expect to achieve the purposes of the Organization. The Committee had the chance to set in motion a process that should lead to the rectification of one of history's great injustices — the exclusion of Taiwan from the United Nations.

54. *Mr. Grey-Johnson (Gambia) withdrew.*

55. **The Chairman** said that a number of non-member sponsors had asked to participate in the discussion of item 159, in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure. In addition, there were a number of non-member non-sponsors who had asked to participate. He took it that the Committee agreed to waive rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

56. *It was so decided.*

57. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Mayoral (Argentina), Mr. Taranda (Belarus), Mr. Leslie (Belize), Mr. Nkingiye (Burundi), Mr. Sambath (Cambodia), Mr. Laotegguelnodji (Chad), Mr. López Clemente (Cuba), Mr. Mavroyiannis (Cyprus), Mr. Kim Chang Guk (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Mr. Ileka (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Mr. Elnagger (Egypt), Mr. Avomo (Equatorial Guinea), Ms. Talbot (Guyana), Mr. Flores Callejas (Honduras), Mr. Neil (Jamaica), Mr. Vixay (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Mr Chiphamba (Malawi), Mr. Capelle (Marshall Islands), Mr. Gal (Mongolia), Mr. Chidumo (Mozambique), Mr. Wali (Nigeria), Mr. S. Beck (Palau), Mr. Buffa (Paraguay), Mr. Richardson (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Mr. Ferreira (Sao Tome and Principe), Mr. Badji (Senegal), Mr. Davies (Sierra Leone), Mr. C. Beck (Solomon Islands), Mr. Ferrari (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mr. Oyarzun (Spain), Mr. Limon (Suriname), Mr. Nhleko (Swaziland), Mr. Nazarov (Tajikistan), Mr. Koubaa (Tunisia), Ms. Ataeva (Turkmenistan), Mr. Taupo (Tuvalu), Mr. Wagaba (Uganda), and Mr. Nuñez de Odreman (Venezuela) took places at the Committee table.*

58. **Mr. Wang** Guangya (China) said that his delegation was strongly opposed to the inclusion of item 159 in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session. A small number of countries had once again raised the issue, with the aim of crating "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" in the Organization. That intention was clearly contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), as well as a brazen challenge to the "one-China" principle widely recognized by the international community. His Government and the Chinese people strongly opposed that gross encroachment on China's internal affairs.

59. Taiwan had been an inseparable part of China's territory since ancient times. Both the 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation had unequivocally reaffirmed China's sovereignty over Taiwan as a matter of international law. There was but one China in the world, and his Government was the sole legal Government representing the whole of China. A total of 160 countries had diplomatic relations with China. All recognized the "one-China" principle and all recognized that Taiwan was a part of China. Moreover, General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) recognized that the representatives of his Government were the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations. Since Taiwan was a part of China, China's representation at the United Nations naturally included Taiwan. The so-called issue of "Taiwan's representation in the United Nations" therefore did not exist. Since 1993, the Committee had always refused to recommend the inclusion of that so-called issue in the agenda of the General Assembly, thereby demonstrating the determination of the vast majority of Member States to uphold the Charter of the United Nations.

60. The question of Taiwan was a purely internal matter for China. His Government's position on the question was firm and clear. Adherence to the "one-China" principle was the basis for the development of cross-Strait relations and the realization of peaceful reunification. China was resolutely determined and was fully capable of blocking any attempt to separate Taiwan from China. Respect for State sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in countries' internal affairs were important principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and China appreciated the just position adopted by the vast majority of Member States.

61. **Mr. Laotegguelnodji** (Chad) said that his delegation supported the statement of the representative of the Gambia. The Republic of China on Taiwan had been one of the founding members of the United Nations. General Assembly resolution

2758 (XXVI) had never established the jurisdiction of the People's Republic of China over the Republic of China on Taiwan. Some 30 Member States had established diplomatic relations with Taiwan and over 100 other Member States, had economic, commercial and cultural ties with Taiwan. The People's Republic of China itself benefited from growing investments by Taiwan, and both countries had been admitted to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2002. It was therefore his hope that the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly would respond to the legitimate request that Taiwan should once again become a full member of the Organization.

62. **Mr. Kim** Chang Guk (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that Taiwan was an inseparable part of the People's Republic of China, as confirmed in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). History had shown that the artificial division of nations caused suffering to the people and political instability. The Taiwan issue was an internal matter for China to resolve, and the United Nations should not be used to legalize "two Chinas". His delegation was therefore opposed to the inclusion of item 159 in the agenda.

63. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that his delegation fully supported the Government of the People's Republic of China in its determination to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and was therefore opposed to the inclusion of item 159. The Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of the people of China and Taiwan was an inseparable part of China's territory. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had already resolved the issue, in political, legal and procedural terms.

64. **Mr. Elnaggar** (Egypt) said that his Government had been first among Arab, African and Middle Eastern States to recognize the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people. Taiwan was an inseparable part of China. He expressed the hope that one day the Chinese people would be united under the Government of the People's Republic of China. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively resolved the issue of representation of the Chinese people at the United Nations. Accordingly, his delegation did not accept the inclusion of the item on the agenda.

65. **Mr. C. Beck** (Solomon Islands) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan had met all the requirements to qualify as a sovereign State under the Charter and international law. Such global threats as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and HIV/AIDS underscored the need for the involvement and close cooperation of all States. Taiwan had made considerable economic and political progress and should serve as a model from which to learn. Its reinstatement as a Member State would help to take the multilateral process to a new level and contribute to the revitalization of the Organization. His delegation was therefore in favour of including the item in the agenda.

66. **Mr. Vohidov** (Uzbekistan) said that his delegation firmly believed that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people and fully supported all the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). He therefore rejected the idea of including the item on the agenda.

67. **Mr. Nhleko** (Swaziland) said that the United Nations could not afford to fail the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan in their desire to be represented in the affairs of the Organization. The people of Taiwan believed in their inalienable right to determine their future, free from coercion, and in their right to membership in the United Nations. They had demonstrated a wish to be responsible members of the international community and cooperate with other nations in providing assistance and supporting sustainable development. Including the item in the agenda was in no way a frivolous attempt to create two Chinas or interfere in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China. Since 1949, the two sides on the Taiwan Straits had been governed as separate entities. It was in the interest of the People's Republic of China to accept Taiwan as a friendly neighbour and move towards peaceful coexistence.

68. **Mr. S. Beck** (Palau) said that Taiwan, a modern democracy with a powerful economy, was too important to be marginalized and excluded from decision-making in the international community. Its involvement in such areas of international cooperation as health protection and air safety was crucial. The United Nations could no longer ignore its presence or deny it representation. In keeping with the Charter, Member States should not deny the people of Taiwan the same right to self-determination that had been

afforded his own country and had led to its independence.

69. **Mr. Chidumo** (Mozambique) said that there was only one China and Taiwan had been part of the People's Republic of China since antiquity. Both the 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation had affirmed China's sovereignty over Taiwan under international law. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), adopted by an overwhelming majority, had resolved the issue of China's representation in the United Nations in political, legal and procedural terms. The annual attempts to challenge the validity of resolution 2758 (XXVI) were an attack on the credibility of the United Nations. He was opposed to inclusion of the item.

70. **Ms. Ferrari** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) said that her delegation supported the return of Taiwan to its rightful place as a Member of the Organization. It was encouraging that relatively small and, some would say, unimportant States could bring the issue of Taiwan's lack of representation to the attention of the international community. The repeated mention of "one China" and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) gave the false impression that the matter had been resolved. If that were the case, however, she failed to understand why weapons had been deployed on one side of the Taiwan Strait and pointed in one direction. Her Government maintained excellent relations with the People's Republic of China and wished to play an active role to promote dialogue and cooperation between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan so that the critical situation could be resolved in the interest of peace and security

71. **Mr. Ferreira** (Sao Tome and Principe) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had not resolved the issue of representation of the people of Taiwan at the United Nations. The denial of the right to international representation contravened the principle of universality under the Charter. The principle of one China only created tensions and should not be applied against the will of the people of Taiwan. His delegation suggested that the United Nations should organize a referendum of the people of Taiwan on whether they supported a policy of one China, two systems. The Republic of China on Taiwan should be brought into the Organization given that it met all the requirements for membership.

72. **Mr. Castellon** (Nicaragua) said that the principle of universality was the cornerstone of the international system established by the Charter of the United Nations, under Article 4 of which membership in the United Nations was open to all peace-loving States. Taiwan was a State that met all the requirements under international law, as it was neither a colony nor a province or territory of another State. The 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation had been issued without the participation of representatives of Taiwan or of the People's Republic of China, and had been aimed at achieving peaceful coexistence between the hegemonistic Powers of that era. The 23 million people of Taiwan were requesting the right to representation in the United Nations under the principle of universality enshrined in the Charter. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had provided for the admission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, but had not addressed the question of the representation of Taiwan, and had been improperly used to justify its exclusion. Therefore, his delegation supported the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session.

73. **Mr. Vixay** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) reiterated his delegation's well-known position on the matter. There was only one China, of which Taiwan was an inseparable part, and the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate Government representing China and its people. As General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question, his delegation opposed the inclusion of the item.

74. **Mr. Buffa** (Paraguay) said that his Government's position on the question of the representation of the 23 million people of Taiwan in the United Nations was contained in a letter to the Secretary-General which had been circulated as document A/59/322. His Government maintained full diplomatic, commercial and cultural relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan) and respected the progress it had made, especially in the economic and commercial sphere. In view of the principle of universality enshrined in the Charter, it believed that the international community must consider the proposal in question, as it would for any other State which met the requirements laid down in the Charter. In line with that policy, Paraguay had supported the admission to WTO of both the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan). Therefore, it supported the inclusion of the item.

75. **Mr. Badji** (Senegal) said that support for the inclusion of the item in the agenda was a genuine act of faith rooted in dedication to the principles of solidarity, tolerance and justice. The sovereignty of Taiwan should not be called into question and its isolation was unacceptable. The Republic of China on Taiwan was a founding Member of the United Nations; it enjoyed solid State institutions; played an active role in promoting fraternal relations in the international community; and was actively engaged in development programmes. His delegation supported all peaceful efforts to advance the reunification process, but that must be achieved only with the consent of all people concerned.

76. **Mr. Oyarzun** (Spain) said that inclusion of the question of Taiwan on the agenda was not timely.

77. **Mr. Neil** (Jamaica) said that Member States should avoid actions that undermined the principles of territorial integrity, sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved the issue of the representation of China at the United Nations and made clear that the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate and recognized representative of the people of China. His Government was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

78. **Mr. Taupo** (Tuvalu) said that the humble and reasonable request to include the item in the agenda reflected the principle of universality and the need for the international community to cooperate to meet global challenges. Taiwan had demonstrated its good will on the international scene over such issues as health. It was a model for the international community of a State striving to maintain its existence as a democracy.

79. **Mr. Tun** (Myanmar) said that there was only one China, which was represented by the People's Republic of China, and Taiwan was an integral part of it. Bearing in mind the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, his delegation viewed the item as a flagrant violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question of representation. His delegation therefore fully supported the position of the People's Republic of China and opposed the inclusion of the item.

80. **Mr. Chimphamba** (Malawi) said that Taiwan's exclusion from the United Nations called into question the principle of universality and violated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had never designated Taiwan as part of the People's Republic of China. His Government would respect any peaceful agreement between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan based on justice, fairness and mutual respect. However, as a democracy with 23 million people and a vibrant economy, Taiwan should be able to participate in the work of the United Nations and its agencies. The General Assembly should therefore give urgent consideration to the issue of Taiwan's restoration to the Organization's membership.

81. **Mr. López Clemente** (Cuba) said the proposal to include item 159 was inconsistent with the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including resolution 2758 (XXVI), which provided a political, legal and procedural solution that was both just and definitive. Thirty-three years earlier, the representatives of Taiwan had been expelled from the United Nations and all its associated organizations. His Government's position remained unchanged. There was only one China, and the letter and spirit of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) must be upheld. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item.

82. **Mr. Sambath** (Cambodia) said that the question of Taiwan was a purely internal matter that must be dealt with by the people of China themselves through peaceful means. His Government therefore firmly supported a "one-China" policy and opposed any effort to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and to include the item in the agenda.

83. **Mr. Capelle** (Marshall Islands) said that his Government favoured the inclusion of item 159 and reiterated its full support for the ongoing quest of the people of Taiwan to participate in the United Nations. Taiwan was a peace-loving, representative, democratic, sovereign State, committed to human rights and prepared to carry out its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, and was an active, constructive member of the international community. It had achieved internationally recognized progress in both economic and social development and had long been willing to share its prosperity through various forms of international development assistance and humanitarian aid. The democratically elected Government of Taiwan was the sole legitimate representative of the people of Taiwan at the United Nations. His Government therefore urged all Member States to put aside their

own political interests and support the inclusion of the item for the sake of the people of Taiwan.

84. **Mr. Mayoral** (Argentina) said that his Government's position was that item 153 should not be included in the agenda for the fifty-ninth session, as General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had decided the question in 1971, based on the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. Argentina had full relations with the People's Republic of China, of which Taiwan was an inalienable part. It therefore rejected all attempts by Taiwan to join the United Nations as a separate entity.

85. **Mr. Arrouchi** (Morocco) said that his delegation also agreed that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the matter on the political, legal and procedural levels. No new information had been received that justified reopening the discussion; his delegation therefore opposed inclusion of the item.

86. **Mr. Flores Callejas** (Honduras) said that the spread of such pandemic diseases as HIV/AIDS, SARS and malaria called for the cooperation and involvement of humanity as a whole to combat them effectively. The recent expansion in the membership of the WTO, which had enabled both the People's Republic of China and Taiwan to participate in its work, gave reason to hope for even broader cooperation between those two nations. In that spirit, his delegation hoped that it would be possible to continue the consideration of the matter in question.

87. **Ms. Ataeva** (Turkmenistan) said that, in the view of her delegation, General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question of the representation of China in the United Nations. Therefore, the Committee should decide not to recommend inclusion of the item in the agenda.

88. **Mr. Aliyev** (Azerbaijan) said that his delegation also supported the "one-China" policy. In accordance with the principle of territorial integrity, his Government viewed the question of Taiwan as an internal matter to be resolved within the People's Republic of China, and therefore, opposed inclusion of the item in the agenda.

89. **Mr. Nkingiye** (Burundi) said that his Government recognized one China, the People's Republic of China, of which Taiwan was an integral part; therefore, it opposed inclusion of the item.

90. **Mr. Koubaa** (Tunisia) said that in the view of his delegation, the question of the representation of China had been settled by the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

91. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that inclusion of the item in the agenda would be in violation of the Charter, and any attempt to question the existence of one China would violate the territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China.

92. **Mr. Wali** (Nigeria) said that to support the representation of Taiwan in the United Nations would be to recognize it as a sovereign State, in violation of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The issue should be resolved on the basis of Articles 3 and 4 of the Charter. Therefore, his delegation did not support inclusion of the item.

93. **Mr. Oubida** (Burkina Faso) called on the international community to reconsider the situation of Taiwan. The decision taken by the General Assembly in 1971 was no longer a valid argument against its representation, given the progress it had made and the fact that it met all the conditions for membership in the Organization. Its admission to WTO in 2002 was a further indication that the matter should be given due consideration. Therefore, his delegation supported inclusion of the item in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session.

94. **Mr. Nazarov** (Tajikistan) said that China's sovereignty had already been determined in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI): there was only one China and Taiwan was a part of it. Therefore, his delegation opposed inclusion of the item.

95. **Mr. Wagaba** (Uganda) said that the matter had already been considered in the General Assembly. His Government upheld a "one-China" policy; it therefore opposed inclusion of the item.

96. **Mr. Musambachime** (Zambia) said that his delegation reaffirmed its opposition to the inclusion of the item, but recalled that, at the fifty-eighth session, the Committee had rejected the recommendation for inclusion of the item but had urged dialogue on the matter.

97. **Mr. Gal** (Mongolia) said that it was the official position of his Government that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved the question of the representation of China in the United Nations. His delegation saw no compelling reason to contradict a

General Assembly decision by including the item in the agenda.

98. **Mr. Limon** (Suriname) said that, based on the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity, the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of China. His Government continued to support a one China policy; it therefore opposed inclusion of the item in the agenda.

99. **Mr. Leslie** (Belize) said that in the view of his delegation, the matter of the representation of China had not been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). A delicate balance must be struck between the principles of universality and sovereignty on the one hand and the fundamental human rights of the 23 million people of Taiwan on the other. His delegation, therefore, supported the representation of Taiwan in the United Nations and the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

100. **Mr. Davies** (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation maintained its position that Taiwan had been an integral part of China since ancient times. International legal instruments could not be ignored, and therefore it opposed any attempt to divide China.

101. **Mr. Avomo** (Equatorial Guinea) said that it was the position of his Government that there was no justification for consideration of the item since the matter of the representation of China had been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

102. **Ms. Anguiano Rodríguez** (Mexico) said that, because of its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China as expressed in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), her delegation opposed inclusion of the item.

103. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana) said that, in accordance with his Government's one-China policy, Taiwan was an integral part of China. Therefore, his delegation opposed inclusion of the item.

104. **Mr. Mavroyiannis** (Cyprus) said that his country had suffered division, and he would not want to see the same fate befall the people of China. Therefore, it supported a one-China policy, in accordance with the Charter, and opposed inclusion of the item.

105. **Mr. Ileka** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that his Government recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate Government of China, and thus opposed the attempt to include the item in the agenda.

106. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that Algeria had full relations with the People's Republic of China and considered that the question of its representation had been resolved in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). It therefore opposed the inclusion of the item.

107. **Mr. Taranda** (Belarus) said that his delegation supported the territorial integrity of China as described in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), and therefore did not support inclusion of the item.

108. **Mr. Richardson** (Saint Kitts and Nevis) said that the question before the Committee had been discussed many times in the past without being resolved. It was clear to his delegation that Taiwan did not see itself as part of China, and several other countries agreed with that view. The international community owed it to the people of Taiwan to listen to them. His delegation therefore supported inclusion of the item in the agenda.

109. **Ms. Nuñez de Odreman** (Venezuela) said that it was the view of her delegation that the item should not be included in the agenda because it violated the principle of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations A/BUR/59/SR.2

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Fifty-ninth session

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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 15 September 2004, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ping (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Gabon)

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Organization of the fifty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*)

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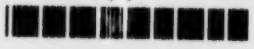

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Organization of the fifty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/BUR/59/1)

Section IV: Adoption of the agenda (*continued*)

Paragraph 46 (Inclusion of items) (*continued*)

Item 159 (Question of the representation of the twenty-three million people of Taiwan in the United Nations) (*continued*)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Farhâdi (Afghanistan), Mr. Melo (Albania), Ms. Izata (Angola), Mr. Hackett (Barbados), Mr. Adechi (Benin), Mr. Aranibar Quiroga (Bolivia), Ms. Maiera (Brazil), Mr. Tidjani (Cameroon), Mr. Moniz (Cape Verde), Mr. Poukré-Kono (Central African Republic), Mr. Acuña (Chile), Ms. Holguín (Colombia), Mr. Stagno Ugarte (Costa Rica), Mr. Djangone-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Gregoire (Dominica), Mr. Giorgio (Eritrea), Mr. Abebe (Ethiopia), Mr. Chitaia (Georgia), Mr. von Ungern-Sternberg (Germany), Mr. Daratzikis (Greece), Mr. Stanislaus (Grenada), Mr. Briz Gutiérrez (Guatemala), Mr. Lopes Cabral (Guinea-Bissau), Mr. Jenie (Indonesia), Mr. Yazdi (Iraq), Mr. Mantovani (Italy), Ms. Al Sanaa (Kuwait), Mr. Toktomushev (Kyrgyzstan), Ms. Abi Khalil (Lebanon), Ms. Khiba Matekane (Lesotho), Mr. Egledi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Mr. Adrianady (Madagascar), Mr. Diarra (Mali), Mr. Bonavia (Malta), Ms. Huree-Agarwal (Mauritius), Mr. Shiweva (Namibia), Mr. Dhakal (Nepal), Mr. Abdou (Niger), Mr. Akram (Pakistan), Mr. Aisi (Papua New Guinea), Mr. Okio (Republic of the Congo), Mr. Cujba (Republic of Moldova), Mr. Motoc (Romania), Mr. Shalita (Rwanda), Ms. Joseph (Saint Lucia), Mr. Abdi (Somalia), Mr. Mabhongo (South Africa), Mr. Oyarzún (Spain), Mr. Goonatilleke (Sri Lanka), Mr. Erwa (Sudan), Mr. Ivanovski (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Mr. Guterres (Timor-Leste), Mr. Sealy (Trinidad and Tobago), Mr. Mahiga (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Mubarez (Yemen) and Mr. Vengesa (Zimbabwe) took places at the Committee table.*

2. **Ms. Joseph** (Saint Lucia) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had conferred on the People's Republic of China legitimacy of representation in the United Nations. As it had in the past, her delegation wished to reiterate the hope that, in the wider interests of prosperity and security, the parties could rediscover the bonds of brotherhood between them. Every year since 1993, a majority of Member States had rejected the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly of an item on Taiwan's representation. Her delegation reiterated its support for the "one-China" policy and its view that the item should not be included in the agenda.

3. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa) said that on 1 January 1998, South Africa had established full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, thereby giving notice that it supported the "one-China" principle and its goals. The issue of Taiwan was an internal matter that should be resolved by the Chinese people. In the light of those considerations and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), his delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed item.

4. **Ms. Martina** (Ukraine) wished to reiterate her delegation's position that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only lawful representative of the whole of China, of which Taiwan was an integral part. The question of China's representation in the United Nations had been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and was therefore not a matter for further consideration. Ukraine joined many other Member States in opposing the request to include the proposed item 159 in the agenda.

5. **Ms. Huree-Agarwal** (Mauritius) said that her delegation unequivocally supported the view that there was only one China and that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole legal Government and representative thereof. She reaffirmed her Government's commitment to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had settled the issue once and for all; her Government was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item.

6. **Mr. Djangone-Bi** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had been adopted by a large majority, had decided the question of the representation of China. The proposed inclusion of an agenda item regarding the representation of Taiwan had also been rejected by a majority of Member States every year since 1993. His delegation regarded Taiwan as an inseparable province

of China and urged the People's Republic of China and Taiwan to settle the matter peacefully. It therefore opposed inclusion of the proposed item because it would harm the prospects of such a peaceful settlement.

7. **Mr. Goonatilleke** (Sri Lanka) said that his delegation's consistent position was shared with that of the overwhelming majority of Member States: there was only one China, namely, the People's Republic of China, and Taiwan was a province, and therefore an integral part of the People's Republic of China. Sri Lanka had supported General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had made the People's Republic of China a Member of the Organization and a permanent member of the Security Council. It opposed the inclusion of the supplementary item.

8. **Mr. Cujba** (Republic of Moldova) said that his delegation fully understood and supported the position of the People's Republic of China, which was the sole representative of the Chinese people at the United Nations. It supported the "one-China" policy and the practice of safeguarding territorial integrity, and regarded the issue of Taiwan as an internal matter for the People's Republic of China. It opposed the inclusion in the agenda of the proposed item 159.

9. **Mr. Okio** (Republic of the Congo) restated his delegation's support for the principle of territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries. China was a single and indivisible country of which Taiwan was an integral part. The issue was not a matter of population size, but one of principle. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had been adopted by an overwhelming majority, had definitively settled the matter and remained in force. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item.

10. **Mr. Erwa** (Sudan), recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2758 (XXVI), had explicitly and unambiguously established the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations, said that international legal instruments had established the right of the People's Republic of China to full sovereignty, including sovereignty over Taiwan. The Taiwan issue was part of the domestic affairs of an independent sovereign State. His delegation supported the "one-China" principle and therefore opposed the inclusion of proposed agenda item.

11. **Mr. Chitaia** (Georgia) said that his delegation strongly supported the "one-China" policy and opposed the inclusion of an item on the representation of Taiwan in the agenda, on the grounds that it could create a negative precedent.

12. **Ms. Al Sanaa** (Kuwait) said that it was clear from General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) that the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of China. Any attempt to reintroduce the question was a clear contradiction of that resolution and of the Charter and ran counter to the principles of sovereignty, territory and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. There was one China, one Chinese people and one Chinese Government with its seat in Beijing. Her delegation was therefore against including the supplementary item.

13. **Mr. Egledi** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, if it took up the matter under discussion, the General Assembly would be challenging the unity of a Member State and interfering in its internal affairs. That ran counter to the noble principles of the Organization's Charter. The question of China's representation in the United Nations had already been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The Committee had decided against including the issue in question in the agenda of the General Assembly in previous years, and he saw no reason to change that precedent. He was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

14. **Ms. Collet** (France) said her delegation continued to believe that attention should be focused on promoting peaceful dialogue between the parties on either side of the Taiwan Strait.

15. **Mr. Aranibar Quiroga** (Bolivia) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had led Bolivia to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China in 1978. Bolivia supported the "one-China" principle, regarded the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people at the United Nations, and opposed the inclusion in the agenda of item 159.

16. **Mr. Bonavia** (Malta) said that, on previous occasions, his delegation had indicated that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) dealt adequately and comprehensively with the issue of China's representation in the United Nations. He confirmed his delegation's position in that regard. The course of action proposed in the explanatory memorandum

(A/59/194) was contrary to the peaceful solution of the question of Taiwan in keeping with the "one-China" policy, which provided the best basis for resolving the matter amicably. Therefore, his delegation could not support the request for the inclusion of a supplementary item.

17. **Ms. Abi Kahlil** (Lebanon) said that her delegation remained attached to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had recognized the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people. It therefore opposed the inclusion in the agenda of the proposed item.

18. **Mr. Poukré-Kono** (Central African Republic) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which was still in force, had recognized the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people and was the best way to promote peace and security. The Head of State of the Central African Republic had reiterated his support for the People's Republic of China during an official visit in 2004, and his country believed that the question of the representation of the people of Taiwan, like other questions, should be resolved peacefully. Moreover, the Charter of the Organization upheld sacrosanct principles including, the principle of non-intervention in matters which were within the domestic jurisdiction of any State. For those reasons, the Central African Republic opposed the inclusion in the agenda of the proposed item 159.

19. **Mr. Adrianady** (Madagascar) expressed his delegation's opposition to the inclusion of item 159. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively settled all aspects of the question of China's representation in the United Nations. Madagascar recognized only one indivisible China, the People's Republic of China, with which it had for many years maintained relations of friendship and cooperation based on the principles of the Charter of the Organization.

20. **Mr. Konuzin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation shared the view of the delegation of the People's Republic of China, that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question of China's representation in the United Nations. That situation had not changed, and there were no grounds for reopening the debate on the matter. The Russian Federation opposed the inclusion in the agenda of the proposed item.

21. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) said that there was only one China and that it was the sole representative of the Chinese people. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved the issue of China's representation in the United Nations in political, legal and procedural terms; it would not be to the Organization's advantage to reopen the question. His delegation therefore rejected the inclusion of the proposed item.

22. **Mr. Sealy** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that his delegation, guided by the principles of international law, including those of territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), did not support the inclusion in the agenda of the proposed item.

23. **Mr. Stagno Ugarte** (Costa Rica) urged the members of the Committee to support the request for inclusion of the item. The United Nations was a universal organization and must incorporate all legitimate Governments. He had therefore made the right decision in accepting the delegation of the People's Republic of China. However, it had made the wrong decision in simultaneously excluding the Republic of China (Taiwan): to remain consistent with the principle of universality, it should have accepted representatives of both Governments. The Republic of China (Taiwan) could make a significant contribution to the work of the Organization. For many years it had been an active member and participant in all its activities, and had fulfilled effectively its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council. Since that time, the Republic of China (Taiwan) had formed close and fruitful ties with the peoples and Governments of the world to promote sustainable development. In keeping with the spirit of universality, Costa Rica favoured representation by both Governments in the Organization.

24. **Mr. Mubarez** (Yemen) said that discussing the matter of Taiwan year after year was inconsistent with the aim of rationalizing the work of the General Assembly. In his Government's view, there was only one China — the People's Republic of China — and the Organization's Member States should adhere to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), help to

maintain China's unity, and treat the issue of Taiwan as an internal issue for China itself to resolve.

25. **Mr. Yahya** (Djibouti) said that, by returning repeatedly to the issue of Taiwan, the General Assembly was contradicting its own resolutions and decisions, particularly resolution 2758 (XXVI). There was only one China, and the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of the Chinese people at the United Nations. He therefore categorically opposed inclusion of the item, which would constitute interference in the internal affairs of that country.

26. **Mr. Gregoire** (Dominica) said that the Commonwealth of Dominica had taken the step, in April 2004, of recognizing the People's Republic of China and the "one-China" policy. It supported the peaceful reunification of China and was opposed to inclusion in the agenda of item 159.

27. **Ms. Izata** (Angola) said that, in the view of her Government, the issue of Taiwan should be resolved by China as an internal matter. Accordingly, it did not support inclusion of the proposed item.

28. **Mr. Abdi** (Somalia) said that the issue of Taiwan must be handled carefully, as to do otherwise could harm the Organization. It was in fact a non-issue, having been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), and the Member States should be encouraged not to interfere in China's internal affairs, of which Taiwan was one. His delegation opposed the inclusion of the item in question.

29. **Mr. Shiweva** (Namibia) said that including the item would divide China and reopen a question to which the General Assembly had found a political, legal and procedural solution with the adoption of resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation fully supported the statement by the representative of China. Only the Government and people of the People's Republic of China could deal with the issue — any other method would infringe on that country's sovereignty. His delegation opposed the inclusion of item 159.

30. **Mr. Vengesa** (Zimbabwe) said that his delegation fully supported the "one-China" policy. Taiwan neither qualified for, nor deserved, membership of the Organization, regardless of its level of economic and social development. In any case, the matter had been resolved years before through General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation was tired of the annual ritual begun by Taiwan's supporters. Those efforts were futile, as the proposed item had no place on the agenda of the General Assembly.

31. **Mr. Mahiga** (United Republic of Tanzania), noting that his delegation was opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item on the agenda, reiterated its support for General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which remained as valid and relevant as it had been at the time of its adoption. Member States should remain united in defending the integrity of United Nations resolutions in order to respect and safeguard the principles and purposes of the United Nations, multilateralism and international law. The "one-China" policy was an unquestionable reality which was essential for the maintenance and furtherance of international peace and security. It was a stabilizing factor in the world and an asset to the United Nations. The issue of Taiwan, which was an integral part of the People's Republic of China, should be settled within the framework of the "one-China" policy.

32. **Ms. Maiera** (Brazil) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively settled the issue of China's representation at the United Nations. Her delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

33. **Mr. Dangue Rewaka** (Gabon) reiterated his delegation's annual opposition to inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda of the General Assembly. Such inclusion would be contrary to one of the cardinal principles of the Charter, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. Nothing had changed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The insistence of some States in pushing for a reconsideration of the issue at each session of the General Assembly without providing new elements was likely in the long run to divert the Assembly's attention from major, high-priority concerns. The Committee should therefore reject the request.

34. **Mr. Farhâdi** (Afghanistan) said that his Government had maintained friendly and good neighbourly relations with the People's Republic of China since 1949. China had continued for decades to assist Afghanistan in its economic development and was currently helping in its reconstruction. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved the issue of China's representation in the United Nations

once and for all. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

35. **Mr. Giorgio** (Eritrea) reiterated his delegation's adherence to a "one-China" policy, which was consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). It was therefore against the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

36. **Ms. Holguin** (Colombia) said that Colombia maintained excellent diplomatic relations and close cooperation with the People's Republic of China pursuant to the "one-China" policy recognized by the international community through General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). It was not necessary to include the item in the agenda, since the matter had already been resolved.

37. **Mr. Danesh-Yazdi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the request made by a number of Member States to include a supplementary item in the agenda was not only a clear departure from the long-standing practice of the United Nations but was also inconsistent with General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had settled the issue of China's representation in the United Nations once and for all. His delegation rejected the request, which undermined the basic principles of international law in general and the Charter in particular. Indeed, the credibility and sovereignty of the Organization as an intergovernmental body should be preserved by respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all Member States.

38. **Mr. Lopes Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau) said that there was only one, indivisible China in geographical, cultural and historical terms. China was an age-old civilization which had made substantial contributions to the development of science and technology throughout the world. Accordingly, inclusion of the item in the agenda should not be entertained.

39. **Mr. von Ungern-Sternberg** (Germany) said that his Government's position in favour of a "one-China" policy had not changed. In that regard, it was important to maintain a peaceful dialogue between both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

40. **Mr. Mantovani** (Italy) said that by adopting its resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly had recognized the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations. In accordance with that resolution and with its respect for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China, his Government wished to reiterate its view that a satisfactory resolution of any differences that existed could only be achieved peacefully through constructive dialogue. In the interests of such a dialogue and an agreed arrangement that was in the mutual interest, Italy could not support the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

41. **Mr. Shalita** (Rwanda) said that Taiwan was an inseparable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China. Therefore, the People's Republic of China was the only lawful representative of China at the United Nations, as clearly stipulated in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Furthermore, the United Nations was an intergovernmental organization whose membership comprised sovereign States. Since Taiwan was not a sovereign State but a territory of China, it did not qualify for membership, and the question of its representation in the United Nations should not be entertained. Lastly, the issue of Taiwan's representation at the United Nations was inconsistent with the principle of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-interference in their internal affairs as outlined in the Charter. His delegation therefore objected to the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda of the General Assembly.

42. **Mr. Motoc** (Romania) said that the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda would be inconsistent with the spirit of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which provided a political, legal and procedural solution to China's representation in the United Nations. Therefore, his delegation's position was fully consistent with the principles and purposes of the United Nations laid down in its Charter, beginning with the basic principle of universality. His Government strongly supported China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Bearing in mind that the United Nations was an intergovernmental organization composed of sovereign States, his delegation believed that the People's Republic of China was entitled to participate in the work or activities of the United Nations or its specialized agencies with one voice.

43. **Mr. Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala) said that Guatemala, which maintained full diplomatic, trade and cultural relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan, had always been concerned about the situation of its 23 million inhabitants, whose aspirations to be

represented in multilateral bodies had not been met. Nonetheless, as stated in its letter of 10 January 1997 to the Security Council (S/1997/23), his delegation felt duty bound to respect the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). It trusted that the differences between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China would be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties and the larger membership of the United Nations.

44. **Mr. Abdou** (Niger) reiterated his Government's position that there was only one China of which Taiwan was an integral part. The issue had been settled once and for all by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

45. **Mr. Adechi** (Benin) said Benin believed, pursuant to the spirit and letter of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had resolved the issue of China's representation in the United Nations, that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of the Chinese people. The "one-China" policy had become the cornerstone of his country's external policy. There was only one China, which was represented in the United Nations by the Government of the People's Republic of China. It was therefore not appropriate to include the proposed item in the agenda.

46. **Mr. Aisi** (Papua New Guinea) said that Papua New Guinea continued to recognize the People's Republic of China under its clear and unambiguous "one-China" policy. Furthermore, General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) adopted by all Member States in 1971 had conclusively restored to the People's Republic of China its seat in the United Nations and had simultaneously made China a permanent member of the Security Council. A peaceful dialogue should be conducted to resolve any relevant issues between China and Taiwan. Like many other delegations, his delegation believed that the item should not be included in the agenda.

47. **Mr. Ivanovski** (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that, like the overwhelming majority of delegations, his delegation did not support the inclusion of item 159 in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

48. **Mr. Melendez** (El Salvador) said that until 1971, the United Nations had made the mistake of failing to recognize the existence of the People's Republic of China as a political reality. The admission of that country through General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) seemed to have resolved the matter of China's representation in the United Nations once and for all. However, the realities of politics had once again demonstrated that such was not the case. Indeed, developments in international relations since 1971, especially the political, economic, social, cultural and institutional development of Taiwan as a separate entity from mainland China had made it into a veritable State with its own population, territory and Government, which was still recognized by over 25 Member States of the United Nations. The United Nations could not and must not make the same mistake as it had made in 1971. Nobody could deny the existence of the Republic of Taiwan as a political entity that contributed to international cooperation and could contribute even more through the United Nations and also in the context of cooperation and solidarity through bilateral relations between States.

49. **Mr. Jenie** (Indonesia) said that the issue of China's representation in the United Nations had been resolved once and for all over 30 years earlier by resolution 2758 (XXVI) in which the General Assembly had decided, inter alia, to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations. In that regard, Indonesia had steadfastly adhered to its "one-China" policy and fully recognized the People's Republic of China as the only lawful and legitimate representative of China. Therefore, once again, Indonesia opposed the inclusion of the item under discussion in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session.

50. **Mr. Daratzikis** (Greece) said that he wished to reiterate Greece's position that the validity of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had provided a political, legal and procedural solution to the issue of China's representation in the United Nations, should be respected. Greece had always supported the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China and therefore opposed the inclusion in the agenda of the item in question.

51. **Mr. Tidjani** (Cameroon) reiterated his delegation's position that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) should be complied with and that the current discussion should be consistent with that resolution.

52. **Mr. Thomson** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation's position on the status of Taiwan had not changed. It continued to welcome the development of democracy in Taiwan and urged both the Chinese Government and the Taiwanese authorities to avoid any action that might increase tensions across the Taiwan Strait. His delegation was strongly opposed to the use of force to resolve that issue and welcomed any efforts by both sides to lower tensions and to engage in confidence-building measures and to find a mutually acceptable basis for the resumption of constructive dialogue.

53. **Mr. Toktomushev** (Kyrgyzstan) said that, while all Members of the United Nations had the equal right to express their views, the attempt by a few countries to put the item on the agenda was a blatant interference in the domestic affairs of the People's Republic of China and a lack of respect for the views of the overwhelming majority of States that had adopted General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). More than 160 countries had established diplomatic relations with China but not with Taiwan. He was opposed to the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the current and future sessions.

54. **Mr. Guterres** (Timor-Leste) said that his country had established diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China on its very first day of independence. The two countries had developed very fruitful and friendly relations. His Government continued to support the "one-China" policy and did not support the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

55. **Mr. Acuña** (Chile) said that his Government recognized only one China. The issue had been settled more than 30 years earlier, when General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had been adopted. His Government recognized the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations and was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the item.

56. **Mr. Melo** (Albania) said he wished to reiterate his Government's support for the "one-China" policy. Since the question of Taiwan was an internal matter of the People's Republic of China, his delegation did not support the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

57. **Mr. Moniz** (Cape Verde) said his delegation shared the view that, as General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had unequivocally recognized the People's Republic of China as the sole, lawful representative of China to the United Nations, the question of Taiwan's representation in the United Nations had been settled once and for all. Therefore, his delegation was opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

58. **Mr. Yazdi** (Iraq), reiterating the excellent relations between Iraq and China, said that there had been no change in Iraq's position on the issue of Taiwan; China was one and indivisible. He expressed support for the statement of the representative of China.

59. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that he wished to reaffirm his Government's long-standing position on the "one-China" policy in line with General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). That resolution had conclusively settled the question of China's representation in the United Nations. Therefore, his delegation strongly objected to the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

60. **Mr. Hackett** (Barbados) said that, while Barbados supported the right of all the world's peoples to be represented at the United Nations, it recognized that Taiwan was an integral part of China and the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda would be a violation not only of the principle of the territorial integrity of a Member State but also of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the Organization. Barbados also supported the "one-China" policy widely recognized by the international community. Furthermore, the issue of Taiwan's membership had been settled by the decision contained in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) that recognized the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations. Therefore, his delegation was opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

61. **Mr. Diarra** (Mali) said that his delegation's opposition to the proposal to include item 159 in the agenda was based on international law; General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had restored the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of China at the United Nations.

62. **Mr. Stanislaus** (Grenada) said that his country's infrastructures had been almost totally destroyed by Hurricane Ivan and that Taiwanese Government experts were helping address the urgent needs for food, water and housing; he called on other Governments, including those of States with which Grenada did not maintain diplomatic relations, to join that effort. The Republic of China on Taiwan was already participating de facto in the work of the United Nations and should be granted membership therein.

63. **Mr. Dhakal** (Nepal) said that his Government supported the "one-China" policy; the question of the representation of the Republic of China on Taiwan had been settled by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

64. **Ms. Khiba Matekane** (Lesotho) said that her Government fully embraced the inclusion of all peoples in the United Nations. However, the sovereignty of the People's Republic of China over Taiwan had been settled; accordingly, she could not support the proposal, to include item 159 in the agenda.

65. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan) said that year after year, the Committee engaged in the same futile debate on the issue of Taiwan's so-called representation and concluded that Taiwan was an integral part of China. The General Assembly had committed itself to the "one-China" policy in 1971. Any attempt to reopen that question would constitute a blatant violation of the Charter. He was therefore strongly opposed to the inclusion of item 159 in the agenda.

66. *The Committee decided not to recommend the inclusion of item 159 in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session.*

67. *Mr. Farhâdi (Afghanistan), Mr. Melo (Albania), Ms. Izata (Angola), Mr. Hackett (Barbados), Mr. Adechi (Benin), Mr. Aranibar Quiroga (Bolivia), Ms. Maierá (Brazil), Mr. Tidjani (Cameroon), Mr. Moniz (Cape Verde), Mr. Poukré-Kono (Central African Republic), Mr. Acuña (Chile), Ms. Holguín (Colombia), Mr. Stagno Ugarte (Costa Rica), Mr. Djangone-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Gregoire (Dominica), Mr. Giorgio (Eritrea), Mr. Abebe (Ethiopia), Mr. Chitaia (Georgia), Mr. von Ungern-Sternberg (Germany), Mr. Daratzikis (Greece), Mr. Stanislaus (Grenada), Mr. Briz Gutiérrez (Guatemala), Mr. Lopes Cabral (Guinea-Bissau), Mr. Jenie (Indonesia), Mr. Yazdi (Iraq), Mr. Mantovani (Italy), Ms. Al Sanaa (Kuwait), Mr. Toktomushev (Kyrgyzstan), Ms. Abi Khalil (Lebanon), Ms. Khiba Matekane (Lesotho), Mr. Egledi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Mr. Adrianady (Madagascar), Mr. Diarra (Mali), Mr. Bonavia (Malta), Ms. Huree-Agarwal (Mauritius), Mr. Shiweva (Namibia), Mr. Dhakal (Nepal), Mr. Abdou (Niger), Mr. Akram (Pakistan), Mr. Aisi (Papua New Guinea), Mr. Okio (Republic of the Congo), Mr. Cujba (Republic of Moldova), Mr. Motoc (Romania), Mr. Shalita (Rwanda), Ms. Joseph (Saint Lucia), Mr. Abdi (Somalia), Mr. Mabhongo (South Africa), Mr. Oyarzún (Spain), Mr. Goonatilleke (Sri Lanka), Mr. Erwa (Sudan), Mr. Ivanovski (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Mr. Guterres (Timor-Leste), Mr. Sealy (Trinidad and Tobago), Mr. Mahiga (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Mubarez (Yemen) and Mr. Vengesa (Zimbabwe) withdrew.*

68. **The Chairman** expressed the Committee's sympathy with the States afflicted by the recent hurricanes: Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica and the United States of America.

Item 160 (Observer status for the Collective Security Treaty Organization in the General Assembly)
(A/59/195 and Corr.1)

69. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) (Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and his own country), said that CSTO was a regional organization, whose objectives were to promote peace, international and regional security and stability and protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of its members, giving priority to political means for achieving those objectives, in full compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and the universally recognized norms of international law. The Charter of CSTO had been registered with the United Nations Secretariat on 16 December 2003. CSTO had all the necessary mechanisms for active participation in the international community's efforts to strengthen peace and international security; it had established contacts with the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the relevant bodies of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; and it was capable of participating in peacekeeping operations, including those of the United Nations. It had demonstrated broad

potential for cooperation with the United Nations on the basis of partnership, joint participation and complementarity of efforts. The granting of observer status in the General Assembly would strengthen coordination between CSTO and the United Nations. He therefore urged that item 160 should be included in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session.

70. **Mr. Konuzin** (Russian Federation) said that he supported the proposal; granting observer status in the General Assembly to CSTO would promote increased cooperation between two organizations which, in turn, would enhance their efforts to combat collective threats, including that of terrorism.

71. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Belarus had asked to participate in the discussion of item 160 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

72. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Shloma (Belarus) took a place at the Committee table.*

73. **Mr. Shloma** (Belarus) said that, as a member of CSTO, Belarus supported inclusion of the item; the granting of observer status to CSTO would strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organizations in their search for a collective solution to global problems.

74. *Mr. Shloma (Belarus) withdrew.*

75. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 160 under Heading 1 in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session.*

Item 161 (Declaration by the United Nations of 8 and 9 May as days of remembrance and reconciliation) (A/59/196)

76. **Mr. Konuzin** (Russian Federation), speaking also on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, said that 2005 would mark the sixtieth anniversary of the victory over fascism in the Second World War, which had been a powerful impetus for the consolidation of the international community and had led to the creation of the United Nations. While honouring the memory of the fallen, it was important to recall the lessons of that war: to exclude any possibility of further world wars, to recognize that there was no alternative to the system of collective security embodied in the Charter and to ensure that the Organization played a central role in efforts to combat new challenges and threats, prevent and resolve armed conflicts and promote a stable and lasting peace. The further strengthening of the role and effectiveness of the United Nations was in the interests of all mankind. He hoped that item 161 would be included in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session and considered by the General Assembly directly in plenary session and that it would result in the declaration of 8 and 9 May as days of remembrance and reconciliation.

77. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that his delegation endorsed the statement made by the representative of the Russian Federation.

78. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) said that the proposal to include item 161 in the agenda was a timely one; its inclusion would encourage understanding among nations in the promotion of peace and harmony and would emphasize the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

79. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Ukraine had asked to participate in the discussion of item 160. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

80. *It was so decided.*

81. **Ms. Martina** (Ukraine) said that her delegation supported the proposal and shared the sponsors' concern regarding the importance of keeping alive the memory of those who had perished in the Second World War.

82. *Ms. Martina (Ukraine) withdrew.*

83. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 161 under Heading 1 in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session.*

Item 28 (Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte) (continued)

84. **Mr. Dangue Rewaka** (Gabon) said that following consultations with the Comorian and French delegations, his delegation wished to propose that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 28 should be deferred to the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, without prejudice to the positions of the Comoros and France, on the issue.

85. **Mr. Pecsteen** (Belgium) said that his delegation supported the proposal made by the representative of Gabon.

86. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 28 should be deferred to the sixtieth session of the General Assembly and that it should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.*

Section V: Allocation of items

Paragraphs 56 and 57

87. *The Committee took note of paragraphs 56 and 57.*

Paragraphs 58 and 59

88. **The Chairman** recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 54/195, any request by an organization for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly would be considered in plenary session after the consideration of the issue by the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly.

89. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 153, 154 and 160 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee, and that item 161 should be allocated to the Plenary Assembly.

Paragraph 60

90. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it hear a brief presentation by the Secretary-General of his annual report prior to the opening of the general debate.*

Paragraph 61

91. *The Committee took note of paragraph 61.*

Paragraph 62

92. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 20 should be allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for annual consideration.*

Paragraph 63

93. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 22 should be allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration every other year.*

Paragraph 64

94. *The Committee took note of paragraph 64.*

Paragraph 65

95. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 40 (b) and 45 should be allocated to the Second Committee for annual consideration.*

Paragraphs 66 and 67

96. *The Committee took note of paragraphs 66 and 67.*

Paragraph 68

97. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the relevant paragraphs of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 66.*

Paragraph 69

98. *The Committee took note of paragraph 69.*

Paragraph 70

99. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly, that the annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 92 of the draft agenda.*

Paragraph 71

100. *The Committee took note of paragraph 71.*

Paragraph 72

101. *The Committee decided to defer consideration of the allocation of item 111 to a later date.*

Paragraph 73

102. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the allocations of item 111 to the First Committee, the Special Political and*

Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Second Committee.

Paragraph 74

103. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed (for consideration in plenary meeting), taking into account its decisions on item 28 and 161, should be allocated to the Plenary Assembly.*

104. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the First Committee should be allocated to that Committee.*

105. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), taking into account its decision on item 84, should be allocated to that Committee.*

106. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Second Committee should be allocated to that Committee.*

107. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Third Committee, taking into account the decision on item 111, should be allocated to that Committee.*

108. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Fifth Committee, should be allocated to that Committee.*

109. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Sixth Committee, taking into account its decisions on items 152, 153, 154 and 160, should be allocated to that Committee.*

110. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Egypt had asked to participate in the discussion. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

111. *It was so decided.*

112. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Elnaggar (Egypt) took a place at the Committee table.*

113. **Mr. Elnaggar** (Egypt) said that General Assembly resolution 58/316 B, paragraph 2 (c) gave very clear guidelines as to how agenda items, under the relevant headings, were to be allocated to the Main Committees of the General Assembly. As far as his delegation was concerned, the consultations required prior to such allocations had not taken place and though Egypt was not a member of the Committee, it would express its position later, together with other States members of the Non-Aligned Movement, at the plenary meeting of the Assembly of which Egypt remained a member.

114. *Mr. Elnaggar (Egypt) withdrew.*

115. **Mr. Bouheddou** (Algeria) said that for practical purposes, the General Assembly needed to adopt its agenda for the current session on Friday, 17 September and the issue raised about the allocation of items, under the relevant headings, must be settled ahead of that time. While his delegation agreed in principle with the arrangements made to allocate items within the context of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 and the set priorities, General Assembly resolution 58/316 B, paragraph 2 (c) was unequivocal about the process of consultation. As time was of the essence, he suggested that the consultations with Member States involved, should take place forthwith so that the agenda could be adopted on Friday.

116. **The Chairman** said that it was his impression that the Committee had taken a decision on the matter in adopting the proposal made by Morocco. He took note, however, of the observations made by the representative of Algeria.

117. **Mr. Bouheddou** (Algeria) said that he did not recall the proposal made by Morocco but his delegation had asked the Secretariat to explain what had happened to the consultations required by General Assembly resolution 59/316. A number of delegations had contacted his delegation, as a member of the Committee, and expressed the hope that the consultations would take place shortly. To address their concerns, the Secretariat might wish to issue a corrigendum in order to avoid any stalemate when it came to discussing compliance with the resolution. He failed to see why the matter could not be deferred until later in the session to give the Committee time to consult with Member States as required by the General Assembly.

118. **The Chairman** requested bureau members and the concerned delegations, including the representative of Algeria, to conduct informal consultations. In order to facilitate the work of the Main Committees, the Secretariat would circulate the report of the Committee at the earliest opportunity, for consideration by the plenary on Friday, 17 September.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

United Nations A/BUR/59/SR.3

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
19 October 2004

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 30 September 2004, at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ping (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Gabon)

Contents

Agenda item 8: Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

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04-52775 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m.

Agenda item 8: Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries" (A/59/231)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to a request by a number of Member States for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries", contained in document A/59/231.

2. The representative of São Tome and Principe had indicated the desire to address the Committee on that matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

3. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ferreira (São Tome and Principe) took a place at the Committee table.*

4. **Mr. Ferreira** (São Tome and Principe), speaking also on behalf of the other members of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Timor-Leste, said that the Community had been created in 1996 and had become an observer to the United Nations in 1999. It brought together 200 million people from eight countries, which were key players in the international arena and regional organizations. One of its objectives was to broaden cooperation among members, particularly within the framework of international organizations, in order to give greater expression to their common interests and needs. The Community was involved in many joint initiatives, including activities to combat HIV/AIDS and malaria. In the political arena, it had participated in the electoral process in Guinea-Bissau and had provided assistance to the rebuilding of the justice and public administration sectors in Timor-Leste.

5. *Mr. Ferreira (São Tome and Principe) withdrew.*

6. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional sub-item in the agenda as a sub-item of agenda item 56, under Heading I.*

7. **The Chairman** recalled that the General Assembly would consider agenda item 56, "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", directly in plenary meeting.

8. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional sub-item should also be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Economic Community of West African States in the General Assembly" (A/59/232)

9. **The Chairman** drew attention to the request by a number of Member States for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Economic Community of West African States in the General Assembly", contained in document A/59/232.

10. **Mr. Effah-Apenteng** (Ghana), speaking on behalf of the members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), said that the request for observer status was a natural extension of the deepening relationship between ECOWAS and the United Nations. ECOWAS had been formed to accelerate the economic and social development of West Africa, and through its institutions, it had promoted cooperation and development in many fields of economic activity from agriculture to finance and culture. Its goal was to increase economic stability and foster closer relationships among its members in order to contribute to the development of Africa as a whole.

11. ECOWAS had played a pioneering role in establishing regional mechanisms for peace and security through its mediation and peacekeeping operations, which had contributed to conflict resolution in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Côte d'Ivoire. As part of its conflict prevention mechanism, it had put in place a regional early warning system and a high-level mediation organ. ECOWAS cooperated with the full range of agencies and entities of the United Nations system. It was against the backdrop of converging organizational goals that the request for inclusion of the item was being made.

12. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda, under Heading I.*

13. **The Chairman** drew attention to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/195 concerning the

criteria and procedures for granting observer status in the General Assembly.

14. **The Committee** *decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be allocated to the Sixth Committee*

Allocation of agenda item 109

15. **The Chairman** recalled that at its 2nd meeting, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the allocation of item 111 of the draft agenda. He had been informed that agreement had now been reached on the matter.

16. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that agenda item 109 (Programme planning) should be allocated to the Third Committee in relation to programme 19 (Human rights) of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007.*

Report of the Economic and Social Council

17. **The Chairman** recalled that the General Assembly, pursuant to its resolution 58/316, had decided that agenda item 12 entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" would be considered in its entirety in plenary meeting. He suggested that, in order not to duplicate debates in the Main Committees, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council that were under agenda items already allocated to the Main Committees should be considered by the Committees concerned for final action by the Assembly.

18. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 9.55 a.m.

United Nations A/BUR/59/SR.4

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
15 October 2004

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 4th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 13 October 2004, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ping ..... (Gabon)
(President of the General Assembly)

Contents

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Saint Lucia

Letter dated 8 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Canada addressed to the President of the General Assembly

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04-54944 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Saint Lucia (A/59/233)

1. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in the General Assembly" had been requested by Saint Lucia (A/59/233). The representative of Saint Lucia had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. *At the invitation of the President, Mr. Severin (Saint Lucia) took a place at the Committee table.*

3. **Mr. Severin** (Saint Lucia), speaking on behalf of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), said that OECS had its headquarters in Saint Lucia. It was a constituent element of the Caribbean Community and a member of both the Association of Caribbean States and the Organization of American States; it also maintained excellent relations with other international organizations. In particular, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund often preferred to deal with OECS as a whole rather than with its individual member countries.

4. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session under heading 1 ("Organizational, administrative and other matters" and that it should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

5. *Mr. Severin (Saint Lucia) withdrew.*

Letter dated 8 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Canada addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/59/424)

6. **The Chairman** drew attention to the letter dated 8 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Canada (A/59/424) concerning the joint debate on agenda items 21 ("The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict") and 24 ("Prevention of armed conflict"). The Permanent Representative of Canada requested that the debate on the two items should be separated and the debate on agenda item 21 be rescheduled to a later date.

7. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the debate on agenda items 21 and 24 should be separated.*

8. **The Chairman** announced that in view of the time frame for the availability of documentation concerning agenda items 21 ("The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict") and 24 ("Prevention of armed conflict"), consideration of the two agenda items would be rescheduled separately at a later date to be announced.

9. *The Committee took note of that information.*

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.

United Nations A/BUR/59/SR.5

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
10 November 2004

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 27 October 2004, at 9.15 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ping (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Gabon)

Contents

Agenda item 8: Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Andean Zone of Peace"

Request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in the General Assembly"

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item entitled "Election of a member of the International Court of Justice"

Request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan"

Joint debate on agenda item 36 (The situation in the Middle East) and agenda item 37 (Question of Palestine)

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04-57416 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 9.30 a.m.

Agenda item 8: Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Andean Zone of Peace" (A/59/235)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to a request by a number of Member States for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Andean Zone of Peace", contained in document A/59/235.

2. The representative of Peru had expressed the wish to address the Committee on the matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

3. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. de Rivero (Peru) took a place at the Committee table.*

4. **Mr. de Rivero** (Peru), speaking on behalf of the countries members of the Andean Community, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, said that the Andean Zone of Peace, established on 12 July 2004, covered the territories, airspace and waters under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of those countries. It constituted the consolidation of various regional and subregional security initiatives. The objectives of the Zone were to ensure compliance with the prohibition on the threat or use of force among the Andean countries; to encourage, within the Andean Community, the prevention of conflicts and their peaceful solution; to contribute to international disarmament and the effective prohibition of weapons of mass destruction and their passage through the subregion, as well as the final eradication of anti-personnel mines; to promote the design and implementation of an Andean programme of confidence-building and security-building measures; and to encourage participation by the Andean countries in peacekeeping operations, under the authority of the United Nations. Those objectives were in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The inclusion of the item in the agenda would signal the Organization's recognition of and support for the initiative of the Andean countries.

5. *Mr. de Rivero (Peru) withdrew.*

6. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session, under heading A (Maintenance of international peace and security), and that it should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in the General Assembly" (A/59/234)

7. **The Chairman** drew attention to a request by a number of Member States for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in the General Assembly", contained in document A/59/234.

8. The representative of Pakistan had expressed the wish to address the Committee on the matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

9. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Abbas (Pakistan) took a place at the Committee table.*

10. **Mr. Abbas** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the States members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), said that the Association, which represented the seven countries of South Asia, had been established at the first summit meeting of the South Asian Heads of State or Government, held in Dhaka in December 1985. Its objectives were to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life by accelerating economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through cooperation among the member States. It also sought to strengthen cooperation with other developing countries. The request for the inclusion of the item had been submitted pursuant to a decision of the SAARC Council of Ministers. He trusted that it would receive the Committee's unanimous support and that the Association would be granted observer status at the earliest opportunity.

11. *Mr. Abbas (Pakistan) withdrew.*

12. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session, under heading 1 (Organizational, administrative and other matters).*

13. **The Chairman** drew attention to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/195 concerning the criteria and procedures for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly.

14. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item entitled "Election of a member of the International Court of Justice" (A/59/237)

15. **The Chairman** drew attention to a request by the Secretary-General for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional sub-item entitled "Election of a member of the International Court of Justice" under agenda item 15 (Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs), contained in document A/59/237.

16. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional sub-item in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session as a sub-item of agenda item 15, under heading I (Organizational, administrative and other matters).*

17. **The Chairman** recalled that agenda item 15 had been considered directly in plenary meeting.

18. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional sub-item of agenda item 15 should also be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" (A/59/236 and Add.1)

19. **The Chairman** drew attention to a request by Azerbaijan and Turkey for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan", contained in documents A/59/236 and Add.1.

20. **Mr. Aliyev** (Azerbaijan) said the lack of an effective response to the obvious threats to his country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, in spite of the relevant Security Council resolutions, made it urgent to include the issue of the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly. His delegation's warnings about attempts to colonize its territory with a view to pre-empting the return of 750,000 internally displaced persons had likewise gone unheeded; its only option was therefore to appeal for consideration of the situation by the General Assembly, in order to reverse the illegal practices in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, which violated international law.

21. His delegation wished to facilitate, not replace, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) peace process and in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations had the right to request that the General Assembly also consider the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. It would welcome discussion of that issue and was supported in its request by the 56 Member States of the United Nations which were members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). He hoped his delegation's request would be supported by the General Committee in keeping with the fundamental principles of the Organization.

22. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Turkey had expressed the wish to address the Committee on the matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

23. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Pamir (Turkey) took a place at the Committee table.*

24. **Mr. Pamir** (Turkey) said that his delegation believed, as a matter of principle, that no Member State should be precluded from requesting the inclusion in the agenda of additional items for the purpose of informing members about matters they wished to bring to the attention of the international community. He had therefore addressed a letter to the President of the General Assembly, in his capacity as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Group at the United Nations, in support of the request by Azerbaijan.

25. The Chairman said that a number of non-member non-sponsors had asked to participate in the discussion. He took it that the Committee agreed to waive rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

26. *It was so decided.*

27. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Martirosyan (Armenia), Mr. Grey-Johnson (Gambia), Mr. Zain (Malaysia) and Mr. Akram (Pakistan) took places at the Committee table.*

28. **Mr. Duclos** (France), speaking on behalf of the co-chairs of the Minsk Group, recalled that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) had long been involved in seeking a peaceful

settlement of the situation in Azerbaijan, in particular through the Minsk Group. The Group had recently initiated the "Prague Process", which involved meetings between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Armenia and had led to productive discussions. At the recent meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Kazakhstan, the Group had suggested a review of the situation and was waiting for comments from the parties.

29. The concerns raised by Azerbaijan could be fully addressed within the existing process. Inclusion of a new agenda item for the General Assembly, given recent progress, could have a negative effect on efforts under way and would not lead to consensus; such a situation should be avoided. The General Assembly was not the appropriate forum for dealing with that issue; furthermore, from a procedural point of view, the issue in question did not meet the criteria of urgency and importance specified in rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

30. **Mr. Martirosyan** (Armenia) said that, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, only items of an important and urgent character could be placed on the agenda during a regular session. However, there was no urgent situation in Nagorny Karabakh or the surrounding territories, nor had the explanatory memorandum submitted by the Azerbaijani delegation provided any factual information to support such a claim.

31. The former autonomous region of Nagorny Karabakh had always been populated by Armenians. The territories surrounding it had come under Armenian control as a result of the war unleashed by Azerbaijan in an attempt to suppress the peaceful struggle of the people of Nagorny Karabakh for self-determination. Currently, those territories served as a buffer between Nagorny Karabakh and Azerbaijan; there had been no fighting there since the 1994 ceasefire. The situation was monitored by OSCE on a monthly basis, and no dangerous developments in the conflict had been reported. Dual-track negotiations were proceeding between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs. The most recent meeting between the two Presidents had taken place only one month earlier.

32. There were no settlements outside Nagorny Karabakh in the territories controlled by Armenian forces, nor was there any policy to settle those lands. As to the claims that a new demographic situation was being created, the conflict had produced many refugees on both sides. For example, more than 400,000 Armenians had been driven from their homes in Azerbaijan, despite living in major cities far from the fighting. While some of those persons had settled in Nagorny Karabakh, no observer or visiting official had reported the existence of any illegal settlement in the surrounding territories. His Government had invited the United Nations to dispatch a verification team in order to lay those charges to rest.

33. The Nagorny Karabakh peace process had picked up speed over the past year. Instead of duplicating the existing mechanisms for the settlement of the conflict, the sides should make maximum use of them. The complex issues under discussion, including security arrangements, territories, refugees and internally displaced persons, communications and the lifting of the blockade could not be resolved individually or without a clear understanding on the final status of Nagorny Karabakh. A piecemeal approach would, at best, postpone a lasting solution to the conflict, but it might also make a comprehensive agreement impossible and endanger the relative stability established.

34. The request by Azerbaijan was politically motivated and was aimed at manipulating public opinion. In that connection, he stressed that the conflict in Nagorny Karabakh had no religious element and appealed to the States members of OIC to consider the issue on the merits, not on the basis of religious affiliation. The inclusion of the item in the agenda could have devastating consequences in both the conflict area and the entire South Caucasus. He therefore urged the Committee not to recommend the approval of the request.

35. **Mr. Cools** (Belgium) said that, although any State had the right to request the inclusion of an item in the agenda of the General Assembly, his delegation believed that the issue of Nagorny Karabakh was best addressed within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in particular the Minsk Group. He also noted that the request for inclusion of a new item in the agenda of the General Assembly was not supported by all the parties concerned; its inclusion could therefore increase tensions in the region. His delegation believed the request could not be justified.

36. **Mr. Grey-Johnson** (Gambia) recalled that, despite numerous resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly calling for the unconditional ending of the illegal occupation of the Azerbaijani territories and drawing attention to the serious humanitarian situation, as well as the efforts of the Minsk Group, no settlement had been reached. The situation was not improving and continued to pose a threat to international peace and security and merited serious consideration by the General Assembly. He supported the inclusion of that issue in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

37. **Mr. Zain** (Malaysia) supported the inclusion of the issue in the agenda of the General Assembly. The situation was urgent and it was appropriate for the delegation of Azerbaijan to request that it be considered by the General Assembly.

38. **Mr. Tesch** (Australia), while recognizing the right of Member States to bring urgent matters before the General Assembly, said that existing efforts on the part of the international community to find a lasting solution to the situation in Azerbaijan, and in particular the OSCE peace process, were the most appropriate forum for settlement of that conflict. He was not convinced that inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the General Assembly would be helpful; it could in fact complicate efforts to achieve a lasting settlement.

39. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that Kazakhstan had always advocated the settlement of international and regional conflicts exclusively by peaceful means. That commitment had been demonstrated by its efforts in the early 1990s to achieve a solution to the conflict in the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Regrettably, that initiative had not led to an improvement in the situation. A helicopter carrying Kazakh peacekeepers had been shot down, and the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan had been among the dead.

40. While his Government shared the concern of the international community about the situation in Nagorny Karabakh and was making every effort to facilitate meetings between the sides in the conflict in both bilateral and multilateral forums, it opposed any interference in the internal affairs of the States of the region that might lead to an escalation of tension, an increase in the number of refugees and displaced persons or a worsening of the humanitarian situation, or that might create a threat to the territorial integrity, independence, security and stability of those States. At the same time, it recognized the need to bring peace to the South Caucasus by settling the conflicts in the region under the auspices of the Minsk Group and on the basis of the norms and principles of international law and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. That would serve the interests of all the States concerned and strengthen stability throughout the Eurasian region.

41. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan) stressed the right of a Member State to bring any question relating to the maintenance of international peace and security before the General Assembly, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations; the General Assembly likewise had the right to recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation (Article 14). The task of the General Committee was to take decisions on matters relating to procedure, not substance; he therefore supported inclusion of the additional agenda item and looked forward to consideration of the substance of the issue by the General Assembly.

42. **Mr. Yahya** (Djibouti) supported the right of the representative of Azerbaijan to request the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the General Assembly, in view of the lack of real progress towards a settlement over the past 10 years, despite efforts such as those by the Minsk Group. It was not acceptable to allow the current situation to continue.

43. **The Chairman** said that a vote had been requested on the question of the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly, under heading A (Maintenance of international peace and security) of an additional item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan".

44. *The proposal was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 14 abstentions.*

45. **The Chairman** said he took it that the General Committee wished to recommend that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

46. *It was so decided.*

47. **Mr. Li Junhua** (China) said his delegation shared the concerns expressed by the representative of Azerbaijan and supported the right of a delegation to request consideration of any situation involving a

threat to its independence, territorial integrity or sovereignty. He hoped that with the support of the international community, including his delegation, and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, a peaceful solution would be found in Nagorny Karabakh. A settlement acceptable to both Armenia and Azerbaijan would have a positive effect on the stability and prosperity of those two countries as well as the region as a whole.

48. **Mr. Aliyev** (Azerbaijan) welcomed the Committee's decision to accede to its request to include an additional item in the agenda of the General Assembly which was of vital importance to his country. He agreed with the representative of Armenia that there should be international verification of the current situation on the ground.

49. *Mr. Martirosyan (Armenia), Mr. Grey-Johnson (Gambia), Mr. Zain (Malaysia), Mr. Pamir (Turkey) and Mr. Akram (Pakistan) withdrew.*

Joint debate on agenda item 36 (The situation in the Middle East) and agenda item 37 (Question of Palestine).

50. **The Chairman** said that the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic had expressed the wish to address the Committee on that matter. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

51. *It was so decided.*

52. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Atieh (Syrian Arab Republic) took a place at the Committee table.*

53. **Mr. Atieh** (Syrian Arab Republic) recalled that he had already spoken on the same matter at the previous meeting of the Committee. The report of the Secretary-General on revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/58/864) had recommended that the General Assembly hold a joint debate on agenda items 37 and 38 at its current session. He wished to request, on behalf of the Arab Group, that the two agenda items be considered separately, as had been the custom in the past, and that the programme of work of the plenary of the General Assembly be adjusted accordingly.

54. **The Chairman** said he took it that the General Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that the consideration of agenda items 36 and 37 should be separated.

55. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 10. 25 a.m.

United Nations A/BUR/59/SR.6

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session

Official Records

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15 November 2004

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General Committee

Summary record of the 6th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 10 November 2004, at 10.35 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ping (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Gabon)

Contents

Organization of the fifty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal

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04-60162 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal (A/59/238)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to consider a request submitted by Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal for the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly of an additional sub-item entitled "Rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas", contained in document A/59/238. The representative of Kyrgyzstan had asked to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Jeenbaev (Kyrgyzstan) took a place at the Committee table.*

3. **Mr. Jeenbaev** (Kyrgyzstan), introducing document A/59/238, said that poor mountain countries truly were in a special situation and that resolving their problems would require the most urgent measures. The socio-economic and ecological problems of those countries were a very serious challenge for them and for the entire international community. Mountain regions were particularly susceptible to natural disasters, which caused irreparable damage. He wished to focus the international community's attention on the need to combat poverty in mountain regions. Indeed, it was a source of many ills and tragedies, as well as a very serious obstacle to sustainable economic development. The inclusion of the additional sub-item in the agenda would greatly contribute to the economic advancement and social well-being of the peoples of poor mountain countries.

4. **Mr. Thomson** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation supported sustainable development and recognized the importance of overcoming poverty and addressing ecological challenges in poor mountain countries. However, the Organization had devoted considerable efforts in the course of the previous session towards revitalizing the General Assembly's agenda. Modest progress had been made in combining some items and in biennializing and triennializing others. While his delegation supported more frequent meetings of the Committee with a view to adding dynamism to the reform and revitalization process of the General Assembly, it was concerned that such meetings were being used not so much to streamline the Assembly's work but rather to expand it and to unpick agreements reached at the previous Assembly about the agenda and to separate items that had been scheduled for joint debate.

5. The current proposal to add a sub-item to item 88 was made under rule 15, which required that the subject matter be important and urgent. While he understood the matter's importance, he wondered why it had not been urgent two months previously when the Committee had considered the agenda for the current session of the Assembly. Since the proposal had come to his delegation's attention only the previous day, he suggested that the Committee should defer consideration of the matter to its next meeting. That would allow all members of the Committee to give the point further consideration, against the background of the Committee's efforts to streamline the Assembly's agenda.

6. **Mr. Duclos** (France) said that, while the issue raised by Kyrgyzstan was a very important one, the Committee had to bear in mind the efficiency of the work of the General Assembly and the need to respect the rules that the Assembly itself had approved. He therefore endorsed the United Kingdom proposal to defer consideration of the issue to a future meeting of the Committee.

7. **Mr. Cools** (Belgium) said that, like the two previous speakers, his delegation would need more time to consider the matter in order to ensure that whatever action was taken by the Committee would be consistent with the decisions taken at the previous session of the Assembly.

8. *The Committee decided to defer consideration of the request to include an additional sub-item in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly to a future meeting.*

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

United Nations A/BUR/59/SR.7

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
6 December 2004

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 7th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 29 November 2004, at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ping (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Gabon)

Contents

Organization of the fifty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal (*continued*)

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04-62571 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal (*continued*) (A/59/238)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to resume its consideration of a request submitted by Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal for the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly of an additional sub-item entitled "Rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas" (document A/59/238).

2. **Mr. O'Neill** (United Kingdom) said that, at the 6th meeting of the Committee, his delegation had asked for a deferral of discussion of the matter so that it might seek further clarification of the proposal introduced by the representative of Kyrgyzstan. Having consulted the delegation of Kyrgyzstan and other interested parties, his delegation took the view that the proposed additional sub-item should be included under item 85 (Sustainable development) rather than item 88 (Groups of countries in special situations).

3. On a more general note, he urged all delegations to submit proposals as far in advance as possible, in order to promote the goal of revitalizing the work of the General Assembly.

4. **Mr. Duclos** (France), supported by **Mr. Verbeke** (Belgium), said that he endorsed the United Kingdom representative's proposal to include the new sub-item under item 85 and his request for timeliness and predictability in the work of the General Assembly.

5. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that he supported the revitalization of the General Assembly in connection with its resolution 57/270 B on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields. The addition of new items in the agenda of the General Assembly did not contradict efforts to reform its activities. Indeed, adding a sub-item to an existing item furthered the aim of clustering issues before the Assembly. Kazakhstan was therefore in favour of including the additional sub-item under item 85.

6. **Mr. Balarezo** (Peru) said that the proposal made by the United Kingdom representative seemed to have wide support and he too endorsed it. As Chairman of the Second Committee, he wondered how the item would be dealt with, since the Second Committee had already completed its consideration of agenda item 85, its deadline for the submission of draft resolutions had passed and it planned to conclude its work for the fifty-ninth session on 7 December 2004. That question must be addressed if the matter was to be considered at the present session.

7. **Mr. Bennouna** (Morocco) said that he held the same view as the United Kingdom and other representatives regarding inclusion of the proposed additional sub-item under agenda item 85, since that approach would be in line with the rationalization of the work of the General Assembly and would address the concerns of Kyrgyzstan and the other States involved. He noted that agenda items could be discussed in Main Committees or in plenary.

8. **Mr. Vohidov** (Uzbekistan), supported by **Mr. Aliyev** (Azerbaijan), said that he supported the request of Kyrgyzstan and other States to include an additional sub-item in the agenda of the General Assembly, and the proposal of the United Kingdom to include it under item 85.

9. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee), responding to the question raised by the representative of Peru in his capacity as Chairman of the Second Committee, said that, if the General Committee approved the inclusion of the proposed sub-item under item 85 at its present meeting, the General Assembly plenary would consider the General Committee's report the following day. As agenda item 85 was allocated to the Second Committee, the President of the General Assembly would then write to the Chairman of that Committee informing him that the Assembly had also allocated the additional sub-item to it. The Second Committee would then have to decide how to proceed; it could elect to reopen discussion of the agenda item.

10. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Kyrgyzstan had asked to address the Committee under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

11. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Jeenbaev (Kyrgyzstan) took a place at the Committee table.*

12. **Mr. Jeenbaev** (Kyrgyzstan), thanking the Committee for considering the request of five mountain Member States to include the additional sub-item which they had proposed, said that his delegation had held consultations with interested delegations following the previous meeting. He was confident that the Committee would take a positive decision, providing the basis for a further solution to the problems and needs of poor mountain countries as they proceeded on the path towards sustainable development and a better life.

13. *Mr. Jeenbaev (Kyrgyzstan) withdrew.*

14. **Mr. Atieh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation also supported the request of Kyrgyzstan and the other States, since the international community could help them to overcome the socio-economic obstacles which they faced.

15. **Mr. Balarezo** (Peru) said that the explanation provided by the Secretary indicated that the Second Committee would have to determine its own course of action, once it received a letter from the President of the General Assembly. If it decided to extend the deadline for submission of resolutions, he hoped that the delegation of Kyrgyzstan would act rapidly to submit a draft resolution, so that the Committee could complete its work as planned on 7 December 2004.

16. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional sub-item in the agenda, under heading B (Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences), item 85 (Sustainable development), and that that sub-item should be allocated to the Second Committee.*

The meeting rose at 10 a.m.